

Westmoreland County courthouse will miss him.

Last, but not least, the gentle guiding force behind John is his beloved wife, Anne, and they cherish their five children and five grandchildren.

It is with great pride that I recognize Judge John Driscoll for his distinguished career in public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him the best of luck and a happy and healthy retirement. ●

RECOGNIZING THE LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

● Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I am honored to have the opportunity to acknowledge and express gratitude to the Louisiana Municipal Association, LMA, in recognition of their 90th anniversary.

Founded in 1926, the Louisiana Conference of Mayors was created with the purpose of providing a forum for mutual consultation and discussion of various topics affecting municipal government. The organization also aided the growth and development of each municipality through education about best practices problem solving. Shortly after the Louisiana Conference of Mayors was created, the Great Depression swept the Nation. In 1937, a handful of resilient mayors met to revive the organization, giving it new life as the Louisiana Municipal Association. They may not have foreseen that their tenacity in overcoming adversity during the Great Depression and taking proactive steps to keep Louisiana municipalities united and strong would form the basis for the core values to which the LMA still adheres today.

From its inception, the LMA has focused on helping local elected leaders create and maintain efficient and effective municipal governments. In 1987, the nonprofit, nonpartisan LMA created Risk Management, Inc., RMI, to address the insurance and liability demands of member municipalities through its inter-local risk pool. In 1999, the Louisiana Municipal Advisory and Technical Services Bureau, Inc., LaMATS, was created with the purpose of providing essential services to assist municipalities in their day-to-day operations.

In addition to these wholly owned subsidiaries, the LMA has three political subdivisions—Louisiana Municipal Gas Authority, Unemployment Compensation Fund, and Louisiana Community Development Authority; four advisory organizations—Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police, Louisiana Rural Water Association, Louisiana Conference of Mayors, and Louisiana Municipal Black Caucus Association; and nine affiliate organizations—Municipal Employees Retirement System, Louisiana City Attorneys Association, Louisiana Association of Municipal Secretaries and Assistants, Louisiana Recreation and Parks Association, Louisiana Association of Tax Administrators, Louisiana Municipal Clerks

Association, Building Officials Association of Louisiana, Louisiana Airport Managers and Associates, and Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association.

For decades, the LMA has had tremendous success engaging with its State and Federal partners. In the Louisiana Legislature, the LMA has been a strong voice in the efforts to fight blight, promote law enforcement, and enhance economic growth. On the Federal level, the LMA joined forces with the National League of Cities and other coastal State municipal leagues to lead the charge in petitioning Congress to enact the Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014, which enacted critical reforms to the Biggert Waters Act of 2012. I was proud to work with the LMA on the inclusion of the Grimm-Cassidy amendment to this legislation, thereby facilitating affordable homeowner flood insurance in Louisiana and across the country.

For 90 years, the LMA has worked to strengthen Louisiana through support and empowerment of municipal government. The organization has launched a yearlong celebration of this anniversary by naming 2016 the “Year of Education.” Opening festivities for this theme will commence in February under the auspices of the 2016 LMA executive board officers—President Mayor Carroll Breaux of Springhill, First Vice President Mayor Barney Arceneaux of Gonzales, Second Vice President Mayor Lawrence Henagan of DeQuincy, Immediate Past President Mayor David Camardelle of Grand Isle, and District A Vice President Mayor Jimmy Williams of Sibley. The executive director of LMA is Ronnie Harris, former 28-year mayor of Gretna.

What started out as a collection of 29 forward-thinking mayors seeking to empower their communities has evolved into a praiseworthy organization that has earned the esteem and trust of local, State, and Federal elected officials, as well as fellow municipal leagues.

I would like to congratulate the LMA on its 90th anniversary and wish them many more years of strength and excellence. ●

REMEMBERING JACK REED, SR.

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, the State of Mississippi and the city of Tupelo lost a leader and model citizen with the passing of Jack Reed, Sr., on January 27. He led a remarkable life and earned an enviable reputation as a businessman, community leader, civil rights advocate, and education reformer. His tireless work in these roles was felt throughout Mississippi and set an example for embracing our better nature in facing all challenges.

It has been a great privilege to have known Jack Reed. He was the epitome of a goodhearted man and my friend. I join a grateful State in expressing our appreciation for a life well lived that benefited us all.

I ask that a January 28, 2016, article titled “Tupelo Spirit loses a star: Reed

remembered as one of Tupelo’s best” from the Daily Journal newspaper be printed in the RECORD.

The material follows:

[From the Daily Journal, Jan. 28, 2016]

TUPELO SPIRIT LOSES A STAR: REED REMEMBERED AS ONE OF TUPELO’S BEST

TUPELO.—Jack Raymond Reed, 91, Tupelo’s pre-eminent civic leader, died Wednesday at his residence.

Reed was among the last of a Greatest Generation cadre of Tupelo’s business and professional leadership who, after World War II, transformed a pleasant county-seat town into a thriving city which became a regional magnet for economic growth, employment, strong public education and a vigorous arts and cultural community.

Reed earned a national reputation as an eloquent advocate for racial fairness and reconciliation in Mississippi. He had served as a member of the United Methodist Church’s Commission on Religion and Race, through which he became friends with key leaders in the national Civil Rights Movement.

“Of all the people I have known in our state of Mississippi, none has been more inspiring than Jack Reed. He was a leader in every way his whole lifetime,” said former Mississippi Gov. William Winter. “He was right and generous and fair in his personal, private and public views. He was an inspiration to me in both political and personal relationships. Jack commanded respect. He did nothing that was detrimental to our state or the principles for which he stood. He was a Christian man, an active member of his beloved Methodist church. He has made a mark in Mississippi that will live forever.”

Reed was chairman of R.W. Reed Co., the retail store founded by his father in the early 20th century, and he led Reed Manufacturing, which was a major force among Mississippi garment industry employers in its heyday.

Funeral services will be 11 a.m. Saturday at First United Methodist Church. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday at the church.

Reed, born May 19, 1924, in Tupelo, was the son of Robert W. Reed Sr. and Hoyt Raymond Reed, herself a descendant of an early, influential Lee County family.

Reed and his brothers, R.W. Reed Jr. and William Reed, were high-profile leaders in the region’s business and manufacturing community for more than 50 years.

Reed graduated from Tupelo High School with honors, attended Vanderbilt University and graduated with a bachelor’s degree with honors in 1947, following an interruption of his college days for service in the South Pacific during World War II in the Signal Intelligence Service, U.S. Army of Occupation.

Following the war, Reed earned a master’s degree in retailing from New York University and returned to Tupelo, where he joined the businesses founded by his father and his father’s brothers.

“Since the 1950s, Jack was considered to be in the upper leadership tier of the Tupelo area and from that platform, he really helped thousands of people by supporting numerous programs and initiatives,” said Lewis Whitfield, senior vice president of the CREATE Foundation. “He cared deeply about all people everywhere, and he was of course a tremendous advocate for education. He saw education as not only the key to community and economic development, but as a way for people to improve themselves. Jack was a great man and he left his mark on virtually every good thing in this community.”

Reed was a director emeritus of the Daily Journal’s corporate board of directors, a position in which he served for a half century.

Reed had been a close friend, confidant and community builder with the late George McLean, the Daily Journal's executive editor, publisher and the founder of CREATE, the not-for-profit foundation which owns all stock in Journal Inc.

"Jack Reed lived a remarkable life, a life marked by love for his family, love for his community and really a love for all mankind," said former Daily Journal publisher Billy Crews, now a development officer at the University of Mississippi. "He is among the best businessmen I have ever known, in part because his trade was only a portion of his total business interest. His combination of intellect, humor and optimism influenced thousands of others and the very culture of Tupelo and Northeast Mississippi. He was a pioneering leader in education and race relations."

Reed was no stranger to community involvement. He was active in his whole career in the Mississippi Economic Council, of which he served as president in 1964; president of the Mississippi Retail Merchants in 1967; chair of the Tupelo Community Development Foundation in 1968; president of the Yocona Council of the Boy Scouts of America; national president of the Vanderbilt Alumni Association in 1972 and 1973; chair of the administrative board of the First United Methodist Church; chair of the Governor's Special Committee of Public Education in 1980 and 1981; chair of the State Board of Education; a member of the board of trustees of Millsaps College; a founding member of the executive committee of Lee United Neighbors; chair of the board of CREATE; founding director of LIFT Inc. and chair of the National Advisory Council on Education Research and Improvement from 1991 through 1994. In addition, he received Tupelo's Outstanding Citizen Award in 1971 and Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000.

"He was a very compassionate man, always willing to help those in troubling situations and people in every kind of life situation," said Guy Mitchell III, an attorney and confidant of Reed's. "He was a giant as far as our city is concerned."

He was married to Frances Purvis Reed, and they were the parents of four children, all of whom returned to Tupelo after college, three of them working for R.W. Reed Co. The fourth owns an investment firm in Tupelo. Jack Reed Jr. served as Tupelo mayor for one term, from 2009-13.

Reed was well known statewide and worked with other leaders of many political persuasions for causes held in common.

"He was a strong leader, not only on the local level but on the state level. A very open minded and fair thinking person," said Tupelo City Council member Nettie Davis, the longest serving council member and lifelong Tupelo resident. "He's one that stood out as far as providing unity and good leadership. I think it's going to be a great loss to our city, our area and the state of Mississippi."

Reed chaired Mississippi's first lay State Board of Education from 1982-87, and later was tapped by President George H.W. Bush to head up the National Advisory Committee on Education Research and Improvement.

Reed's stance on public education was a dominating portion of his campaign as the Republican nominee for governor in 1987. Reed eventually lost that race to Democrat Ray Mabus.

Reed, in a 1999 archived interview for the University of Southern Mississippi, described his early years in Tupelo.

"Well, it was different. It was a good time for me," Reed said in the interview. "My father was a merchant here, and my mother was also a native of this area. I had two brothers; we had a nice home. And of course,

in this area, if you had anything at all, servants were plentiful in those days. So, we always had a cook, and it was in the Depression. We were aware of the Depression, but my father, fortunately, sold his business at the . . . appropriate time, and just before the Depression hit its bottom. And he bought it back within a year for considerably less than he sold it for, and it gave him enough inventory to keep things going. So, we weathered the Depression better than most."

Reed also was an adolescent when the 1936 tornado—a deadly, devastating storm—struck, and he recalls its impact on the city.

"Our home was literally destroyed by the tornado," Reed said. "People were killed across the street, and next door and behind us, but we survived that. Interestingly, during that time of the tornado, the store was not damaged. So, [my father] opened the store, told his friends to take what they needed, pay him when they could. I don't think he lost any money on the basis of that."

But above all his civic, business and other contributions to Tupelo, Northeast Mississippi and the state, Reed said he always placed family as a top priority.

"The conclusion is family has been the most important thing in my life; remains so; has always been," Reed said. "I'm a privileged person. All four of my children, went away, out of this state to college. All four of them are living here, now. I see my four children and my grandchildren every day unless something exceptional [happens]. We work together. My brothers and I were business partners for 50 years."

"I've been in one church all of my life. All of my children went to Tupelo public schools. I know some people would think that that's pretty provincial, but there's a stability to it that I have found has been very satisfying to me. So, that's the conclusion to my memoir."●

TRIBUTE TO GIL CARMICHAEL

● Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this weekend, Disney Pictures will release "The Finest Hours," a cinematic retelling of a 1952 Coast Guard rescue mission off the New England coast. I am pleased to use its release as an opportunity to commend Mr. Gil Carmichael of Meridian, MS, an important participant in this mission, for his bravery during that storm and for a lifetime of service to the State of Mississippi and the Nation. Mr. Carmichael, an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard at the time, was awarded the Silver Life-Saving Medal for his heroic actions during that rescue mission.

A 1952 Coast Guard news release described the rescue:

FOR RELEASE AT 10: 30 A.M., MAY 14, 1952

Twenty-one Coast Guardsmen were decorated today by Edward H. Foley, Under Secretary of the Treasury, and Vice Admiral Merlin O'Neill, Coast Guard Commandant, for the rescue of 70 men in a heavy storm at sea Feb. 18-19.

The rescued men were crew members of the tankers SS FORT MERCER and SS PENDELTON which broke in two in 70-knot winds and 60-foot seas off the coast of Cape Cod, Mass.

The group ceremony was held in the Treasury before members of Congress and high ranking Coast Guard officers. Members of Congress from the homes of each man decorated, and members of committees which handle Coast Guard legislation, also were invited.

Also present were William B. St. John of the National Bulk Carriers, Inc., owner of the PENDELTON, and C.A. Thomas, W.G. Johnson and P.J. Clausen of the Trinidad Corp., owner of the FORT MERCER.

Admiral O'Neill described the Cape Cod rescue operations as unique in Coast Guard history. With each tanker broken in two forty miles apart, four hulks with survivors aboard were left adrift in the mountainous seas.

He said all types of rescue equipment were used including large Coast Guard cutters, an airplane, an ocean-going tug, motor lifeboats, radar, rubber liferafts, scramble nets, lifelines and exposure suits.

"But most of all," said Admiral O'Neill, "the situation called for raw courage and skill of the highest order—backed by Coast Guard teamwork."

Five of the men received the Treasury's Gold Life-saving Medal for "extreme and heroic daring." Four others received the Treasury's Silver Life-saving Medal for "heroic action." Fifteen were cited for "courage, initiative and unswerving devotion to duty" and authorized to wear the Coast Guard Commendation ribbon. Those decorated were:

Gold Life-Saving Medal:

Andrew J. Fitzgerald, Engineman 2nd class; Ervin E. Maske, Seaman; Bernard C. Webber, Boatswain's Mate 1st class; Richard P. Livesey, Seaman; Ensign William R. Kiely, Jr.

Silver Life-Saving Medal:

Paul R. Black, Engineman 2nd class; Ensign Gilbert E. Carmichael; Edward A. Mason, Jr., Apprentice Seaman; Webster G. Terwilliger, Seaman

Coast Guard Commendation Ribbon:

Antonio F. Ballerini, Boatswain's Mate 3rd class provisional; Donald H. Bangs, Boatswain's Mate Chief; Richard J. Ciccone, Seaman; John J. Courtney, Boatswain's Mate 3rd class; John F. Dunn, Engineman 1st class; Philip M. Griebel, Radioman 1st class; Emory H. Haynes, Engineman 1st class; Roland W. Hoffert, Gunner's Mate 3rd class; Eugene W. Korpusik, Seaman Apprentice; Ralph L. Ormsby, Boatswain's Mate Chief; Dennis J. Perry, Seaman; Donald E. Pitts, Seaman; Alfred J. Roy, Boatswain's Mate 1st class; Herman M. Rubinsky, Seaman Apprentice; LCDR John N. Joseph

A nor'easter is a remarkable event in any era. The 1952 winter storm spawned hurricane-force winds and waves as tall as most of the office buildings at the time. The brave members of our Coast Guard raced into this dangerous situation to locate two large tankers that had broken in two and to rescue 70 men facing nearly certain death.

When asked about the rescue, a selfless Mr. Carmichael, who was in charge of a rescue boat that rescued two men from the bow of the SS *Fort Mercer* that day, said, "I learned early in life how I would behave in crisis. I knew when we put the boat over we could be killed but all of us were just thinking about trying to save lives rather than of our own safety."

Gil Carmichael took the remarkable experience he gained in the Coast Guard and continued on the path of public service, later for statewide office in Mississippi in the 1960s, as a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 1972, twice for Governor in 1975 and 1979, and once for Lieutenant Governor in 1983. He also served as a delegate from Mississippi to the Republican National